

Table 62. Age-adjusted prevalence of current cigarette smoking by persons 25 years of age and over, according to sex, race, and education: United States, selected years 1974–2000

[Data are based on household interviews of a sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population]

<i>Sex, race, and education</i>	<i>1974</i>	<i>1979</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>1985</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1997¹</i>	<i>1998¹</i>	<i>1999¹</i>	<i>2000¹</i>
25 years and over, age adjusted ²	Percent of persons										
All persons ³	36.9	33.1	31.6	30.0	25.4	24.9	24.5	24.0	23.4	22.7	22.6
No high school diploma or GED	43.7	40.7	40.7	40.8	36.7	37.5	35.6	33.5	34.4	32.2	31.9
High school diploma or GED	36.2	33.6	33.5	32.0	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.9	28.9	28.0	29.2
Some college, no bachelor's degree	35.9	33.2	30.3	29.5	23.4	24.5	22.6	23.7	23.5	23.3	21.7
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.2	22.6	20.5	18.5	13.9	11.9	13.6	11.4	10.9	11.1	10.9
All males ³	42.9	37.3	35.1	32.8	28.2	27.3	26.4	26.4	25.1	24.5	24.8
No high school diploma or GED	52.3	47.6	47.1	45.7	42.0	43.8	39.7	39.1	37.5	36.2	36.4
High school diploma or GED	42.4	38.9	37.4	35.5	33.1	31.7	32.7	32.2	32.0	30.4	32.1
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.8	36.5	33.3	32.9	25.9	26.8	23.7	25.5	25.4	24.8	23.3
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.3	22.7	21.7	19.6	14.5	13.4	13.8	12.5	11.0	11.8	11.6
White males ^{3,4}	41.9	36.7	34.4	31.7	27.6	26.4	25.9	25.8	24.8	24.2	24.7
No high school diploma or GED	51.5	47.6	47.7	45.0	41.8	42.6	38.7	38.5	37.4	36.3	38.6
High school diploma or GED	42.0	38.5	37.0	34.8	32.9	31.6	32.9	31.8	32.2	30.5	32.5
Some college, no bachelor's degree	41.6	36.4	32.9	32.2	25.4	26.4	23.3	25.6	25.2	24.7	23.6
Bachelor's degree or higher	27.8	22.5	21.0	19.1	14.4	12.8	13.4	12.0	10.9	11.8	11.3
Black or African American males ^{3,4}	53.4	44.4	42.8	42.1	34.5	36.6	31.6	33.8	30.4	29.1	26.5
No high school diploma or GED	58.1	49.7	46.0	50.5	41.6	51.7	41.9	44.6	42.9	43.8	38.3
High school diploma or GED	*50.7	48.6	47.7	41.8	37.4	37.8	36.6	39.0	32.8	32.5	29.1
Some college, no bachelor's degree	*45.3	39.2	44.9	41.8	28.1	*29.2	26.4	27.0	28.4	23.4	20.0
Bachelor's degree or higher	*41.4	*36.8	*31.7	*32.0	*20.8	*26.8	*17.3	14.5	*15.3	11.3	14.7
All females ³	32.0	29.5	28.5	27.5	22.9	22.8	22.9	21.7	21.7	20.9	20.6
No high school diploma or GED	36.6	34.8	35.2	36.5	31.8	31.5	31.7	28.2	31.3	28.2	27.3
High school diploma or GED	32.2	29.8	30.7	29.5	26.1	27.2	26.4	27.9	26.2	25.9	26.7
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.1	30.0	27.3	26.3	21.0	22.4	21.6	22.0	21.8	21.9	20.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.9	22.5	18.9	17.1	13.3	10.2	13.3	10.3	10.7	10.4	10.1
White females ^{3,4}	31.7	29.7	28.6	27.3	23.3	23.3	23.1	21.9	22.3	21.4	21.1
No high school diploma or GED	36.8	35.8	35.6	36.7	33.4	33.0	32.4	29.7	33.0	29.5	28.6
High school diploma or GED	31.9	29.9	30.8	29.4	26.5	28.3	26.8	28.3	27.1	27.2	27.9
Some college, no bachelor's degree	30.4	30.7	27.8	26.7	21.2	22.1	22.2	22.1	22.2	22.3	21.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.5	21.9	18.7	16.5	13.4	10.7	13.5	10.5	11.5	10.5	10.2
Black or African American females ^{3,4}	35.6	30.3	31.2	32.0	22.4	23.0	25.7	24.1	23.0	21.4	21.6
No high school diploma or GED	36.1	31.6	36.5	39.4	26.3	29.9	32.3	27.1	32.8	30.1	31.2
High school diploma or GED	40.9	32.6	34.6	32.1	24.1	22.6	27.8	29.1	24.3	22.4	25.4
Some college, no bachelor's degree	32.3	*28.9	*27.1	23.9	22.7	28.3	20.8	24.3	21.7	22.3	20.4
Bachelor's degree or higher	*36.3	*43.3	*36.8	26.6	17.0	*11.1	17.3	12.5	9.0	13.4	10.8

* Estimates are considered unreliable. Data preceded by an asterisk have a relative standard error of 20–30 percent.

¹See Appendix I, National Health Interview Survey, for discussion of 1997 redesign.

²Estimates are age adjusted to the year 2000 standard population using four age groups: 25–34 years, 35–44 years, 45–64 years, 65 years and over. See Appendix II, Age adjustment. For age groups where percent smoking was 0 or 100, the age-adjustment procedure was modified to substitute the percent smoking from the next lower education group.

³Includes unknown education. Education categories shown are for 1997 and subsequent years. GED stands for General Educational Development high school equivalency diploma. In 1974–95 the following categories based on number of years of school completed were used: less than 12 years, 12 years, 13–15 years, 16 years or more. See Appendix II, Education.

⁴Starting with data year 1999, the categories “White” and “Black or African American” include persons who reported only one racial group consistent with the 1997 Standards for Federal data on race and ethnicity (see Appendix II, Race). Prior to data year 1999, estimates for the race categories shown include persons who reported one race or who reported more than one race and identified one race as best representing their race, consistent with the 1977 Standards. Because of the differences between the two Standards, race-specific estimates starting with data year 1999 are not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. To estimate change between 1998 and 1999, race-specific estimates for 1999 based on the 1977 Standards can be used. In comparison with the 1999 estimates based on the 1997 Standards, estimates of the age-adjusted percent of current smokers based on the 1977 Standards are: identical for white males; 0.2 percentage points higher for black males and females; and 0.1 percentage points higher for white females. For additional data on cigarette smoking by racial groups, see table 63.

NOTES: The definition of current smoker was revised in 1992 and 1993. See Appendix II, Cigarette smoking. Data for additional years are available (see Appendix III). Some numbers for 1998 were revised and differ from the previous edition of *Health, United States*.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Health Interview Survey. Data are from the following questionnaire supplements: hypertension (1974), smoking (1979), alcohol and health practices (1983), health promotion and disease prevention (1985, 1990–91), cancer control and cancer epidemiology (1992), and year 2000 (1993–95). Starting in 1997 data are from the family core and sample adult questionnaires.